

NORHAM AND ISLANDSHIRES RURAL  
DISTRICT COUNCIL.



# ANNUAL REPORT

UPON THE

**HEALTH AND SANITARY CONDITION**

OF THE

NORHAM AND ISLANDSHIRES  
RURAL DISTRICT

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1913.

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NORHAM AND ISLANDSHIRES RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

**Medical Officer of Health for the Rural District of  
Norham and Islandshires,**

*For the Year ending 31st December, 1913.*

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*To the Chairman and Members of the  
Norham and Islandshires Rural District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present to you my Third Annual Report,  
being for the year ended 31st December, 1913.

## AREA.

The area of the district is 46,730 acres.

## POPULATION.

The population according to the census of 1911 was 5,830. I estimate the present population at this figure, and upon this number the various rates are calculated.

## BIRTHS.

The births registered in the district during 1913 numbered 127, this number is an increase of 18 as compared with the births of the previous year, and equal to a rate of 21.78 per 1000 of the population.

## DEATHS.

The deaths registered in the district during 1913 numbered 78. After correction through the information supplied by the Registrar General relating to transferable deaths, the number of deaths belonging to the district is 82. The death rate calculated on the latter number, is, for the whole district, 14.06 per 1000 of the population, which is equal to a rate of 1.89 more than the previous year. The death rate corrected for differences of sex and age constitution is 12.48 per 1000 of the population. Out of the total number of deaths registered 44 were of persons of the age of 65 years and upwards, the number last year was 33, the sole increase this year therefore arises under this heading.

## INFANT MORTALITY.

The number of deaths occurring in infants under 1 year was 12, equal to a death-rate at this age period of 94.48 per 1000 births, as compared with 73.4 in 1912, an increase of 21 per 1000 births. The total number of deaths from 1 to 5 years was 3, which gives a death-rate at this age period of .51 per 1000 of the population, being a decrease of .35 as compared with 1912.

The increases under this heading are chiefly attributable to Premature Births, there being 4 out of a total of 15 deaths, and Whooping Cough accounted for 3 deaths.



### DEATHS FROM ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

The principal zymotic diseases upon which the zymotic death-rate is calculated are Smallpox, Enteric Fever, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup), Measles, Whooping Cough, Diarrhœa (including infant deaths from Enteritis and Gastritis), and Phthisis. The deaths occurring from the above group numbered 7, viz.:—

Whooping Cough, ...	...	...	...	3
Phthisis, ...	...	...	...	2
Diarrhœa and Enteritis, ...	...	...	...	2
				—
Total, ...				7

This number is the same as last year.

#### PHTHISIS.

The total number of deaths from Phthisis, as above, was 2, the death-rate being .34 per 1000 of the population. The number last year was 3.

### DEATHS FROM DISEASES OF THE RESPIRATORY ORGANS (EXCLUDING PHTHISIS).

8 deaths were caused by diseases of this class, viz.:—3 Bronchitis, 5 Pneumonia. The Respiratory death-rate was 1.37 per 1000 of the population, being a decrease of .51 compared with the rate for the preceding year.

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The notifiable infectious diseases which occurred during the year were :—

Diphtheria, ...	...	...	*	...	...	8
Erysipelas, ...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Scarlet Fever, ...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Pulmonary Phthisis, ...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Other forms of Tuberculosis, ...	...	...	...	...	...	5
						—
Total, ...						42

This shows an increase of 9 in comparison with last year.

No cases of Poliomyelitis or Cerebro-Spinal Fever have been reported.

It is gratifying to note a decrease of 7 in the number of Diphtheria cases, but on the other hand there has been an increase of 12 cases of Scarlet Fever; this was principally among school children all over the district, but fortunately was of a mild type.

During the prevalence of Whooping Cough in the beginning of the year, the following Schools were closed on my recommendation :—Thornton, Ancroft, and Shoreswood; and in the latter part of the year Cornhill School was closed owing to an outbreak of Measles.

#### ANTI-TOXIN.

The Council have adopted the recommendation contained in my last Report, to provide and supply Anti-Toxin in Diphtheria cases, and I am confident this will prove beneficial in cases so treated.

#### NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Under this heading 3 deaths have occurred, all from Whooping Cough.

In regard to Notifiable Diseases, the Council are now issuing a pamphlet drawing the attention of parents and others to the dangers of infection, and the measures to be adopted to prevent the spread of any particular disease.

#### SANITATION.

The most important matter under this heading which has, and is still receiving the consideration of the District Council, is the Drainage and Water Supply of the Scremerston district, and particularly the drainage and sewerage from premises situated in the vicinity of the Doupster Burn. Complaints have also been received with regard to the condition of the burn at Borewell. This burn conveys the sewage from the larger portion of Scremerston village to the sea, and in its present condition is alleged to be a nuisance. The Council propose, with the sanction of the Local Government Board, to carry out certain sewerage work in this part of their district, and to form the Scremerston Ward into a Special Drainage Area, for the purpose of charging thereon, exclusively, the cost of such work. At the latter end of the year, enquiries were made into the Water Supply for this district, which is pumped to a Reservoir and distributed by gravitation. Certain improvements suggested are being carried out to augment this supply.

The drainage system at Scremerston School has also occupied the attention of the Council, and a new system is to be installed, which, I am of the opinion, will prove satisfactory, and will remove a system that has always been suspicious, more especially when cases of infectious disease were of such frequent occurrence amongst the school children.

#### WATER SUPPLIES.

Although the year was exceptionally dry no actual water famine occurred, but in certain parts of the district, supplies were at a very low ebb,—this state of affairs, however, was pretty general. The supply from the Waterworks in Norham Village has been constant, and is of good quality; the water engine at these works has been overhauled.

At the following places the water supplies have been increased, at Thornton Park and East Allerdean, by the erection of wind-mills; at Felkington by tapping a new spring; and it is proposed to provide more storage at South Berrington.

Complaints were received of the insufficiency of the water supply at the Sandbanks, Scremerston, and at the end of the year this was the subject matter of correspondence between the Council and the Agents and Lessees.

#### SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

The principal improvements that have been carried out in this direction are the laying of a new 6 inch pipe at Horncliffe Square; the draining of Buckton Farm Cottages by installation of a new sanitary drain and settling tank; the laying of a sanitary pipe and settling tank at Royalty Farm Cottages; the laying of a sanitary pipe and settling tank at the Boathouse, Norham; the laying of a new drain at the Lamb Inn, Ancroft; and the laying of a new drain and septic tank at Thornton Park. Minor drainage



repairs have also been carried out at Morris Hall, Grievestead, and other places. Under the policy which the Council have adopted of recommending the treatment of the sewage, where new sewage systems are installed, matters in this direction are gradually improving.

Privies and ash-pits are general throughout the district, and where the farmers undertake the removal of refuse, the arrangements work satisfactorily. The ashpits and privies have been repaired at South Berrington and New Haggerston. At Shoreswood Hall new ashpits and privies have been erected, also at Twizel Red House and Oxendean. There are no scavenging arrangements in force in the district.

#### HOUSING.

Plans of all new buildings, etc., passed by the Council during the year are enumerated in the Inspector's Report, and as will be noted only two new houses have been erected during the year, but in my opinion the housing accommodation at present is quite sufficient for the needs of the district.

#### HOUSING (INSPECTION OF DISTRICT) REGULATIONS, 1910.

#### HOUSING, TOWN PLANNING, ETC., ACT, 1909.

Inspections have been made in several parts of the district. I append table required under the above Regulations, giving number of inspections made, and notices issued, etc. In the three cases referred to the conditions were such that the owners elected to close the houses rather than carry out the extensive improvements required to make same habitable.

As previously reported to the Council, the state of the dwelling houses in the district is fairly good, dampness being the worst feature, which is difficult to remedy, especially in the older houses.

#### DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, AND MILKSHOPS.

One Cowkeeper has been added to the Register, making the total 35. All these premises have been regularly inspected, and found to be in good order.

#### FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

The number on the register is 33—4 factories, 2 bakehouses, and the remainder workshops. Inspections have been made from time to time, and with the exception of lime-washing required in 2 cases, there was no necessity to report any contravention of the regulations. None of these workshops are underground.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

There has been no necessity during the year to make use of the Isolation Hospital at Scremerston. No sanatorium or hospital accommodation is provided in the district.

I am, GENTLEMEN,

Your obedient servant,

NORHAM,  
10th March, 1914.

**JOHN PAXTON,**  
*Medical Officer of Health.*

HOUSING (INSPECTION OF DISTRICT) REGULATIONS, 1910. Norham and Islandshires Rural District.

Tabular Statement as Required by Article V. Year 1913.

NORHAM AND ISLANDSHIRES SANITARY DISTRICT.	No. of Dwelling Houses inspected.	No. of Dwelling Houses which, on inspection, considered unfit for human habitation	No. of Representations made to Local Authority with a view to Closing Orders being made.	Closing Orders.			No. of Dwellings in which Defects remedied without Closing Orders being made.	No. of Dwellings put into fit state for human habi- tation after Closing Orders made.	General Characters of Defects found.	Any other information.
				No. of Orders made	No. of Houses vacated at end of each year in consequence.					
PARISHES or SUB-DIVISIONS.										
1. ORD, ... ..	42	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	Dampness, want of light and ventila- tion, and otherwise dilapidated.	Closed by Owner rather than carry out the extensive repairs required.
2. SHORESWOOD,...	18	2	2	...	...	...	..	...	Ruinous.	Same as above.
3. KYLOE (FENWICK),	19	—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Houses in this Sub- Division in good condition.
TOTALS,	79	3	3	...	...	...	...	..	...	...

**TABLE I.**  
**VITAL STATISTICS of Whole District during 1913 and Previous Years.**  
**Norham and Islandshires Rural District.**

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Uncorrected Number.	Nett.		Number.	Rate.	Of Non-Residents registered in the District.	Of Residents not Registered in the District.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
			Number.	Rate.					Number.	Rate per 1000 Net Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1908 .....	6054	151	151	24.94	95	15.69	...	...	14	92.7	95	15.69
1909.....	6054	146	146	24.11	81	13.54	...	...	11	75.3	81	13.54
1910.....	6054	136	136	22.46	79	13.04	...	...	10	73.5	79	13.04
1911.....	5830	126	126	21.61	60	10.29	1	4	7	55.5	63	10.80
1912.....	5830	109	109	18.69	68	11.66	1	4	8	73.4	71	12.17
1913.....	5830	127	127	21.78	78	13.37	...	4	12	94.48	82	14.06

Area of District in Acres (land and inland water),	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <span style="font-size: 2em; margin-right: 5px;">}</span> <div style="text-align: left;"> 46,730 </div> </div>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <span style="font-size: 2em; margin-right: 5px;">}</span> <div style="text-align: left;"> Total Population at all Ages, ...  Number of Inhabited Houses, ...  Average Number of Persons per House, .. </div> </div>
		<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <span style="font-size: 2em; margin-right: 5px;">}</span> <div style="text-align: left;"> 5,830  1,392  4 </div> </div>

At Census, 1911.



TABLE II.

Cases of Infectious Disease Notified during the year 1913.  
Norham and Islandshires Rural District.

Notifiable Disease.	Number of Cases Notified.						
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.					
		Under 1 year.	1 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup), ...	8	...	1	6	1	...	...
Erysipelas, ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	2
Scarlet Fever, ...	23	...	2	12	9	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis, ...	4	...	...	...	3	...	1
Other Forms of Tuberculosis, ...	5	1	2	1	...	1	...
Totals, ...	42	1.	5	19	13	1	3
							...

ISOLATION HOSPITAL or HOSPITALS, SANATORIA, &c.—Small-pox Hospital, situate at Scremerston, within the District.

**TABLE III.—Causes of and Ages at Death, during the Year 1913.**  
**Norham and Islandshires Rural District.**

Causes of Death.	Nett Deaths at the sub-joined Ages of "Residents," whether occurring within or without the District.								
	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 years.	2 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and upwards.
I	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
All Causes { Certified, ... { Uncertified, ...	82 Nil.	12 ...	14 ...	2 ...	2 ...	1 ...	8 ...	12 ...	44 ..
Whooping Cough, ...	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis), ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...
Tuberculous Meningitis, ..	4	...	1	1	1	1	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases, ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cancer, malignant Disease,...	6	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	4
Organic Heart Disease, ...	9	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	6
Bronchitis, ...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
Pneumonia (all forms), ...	5	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	3
Diarrhoea and Enteritis, ...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cirrhosis of Liver, ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Nephritis and Bright's Disease, ...	4	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	2
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition, ...	3	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth, ...	4	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide,...	3	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1
Suicide, ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Other defined diseases, ...	10	1	...	...	...	...	1	2	6
Diseases ill-defined or unknown, ...	21	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Totals, ...	82	12	1	2	2	1	8	12	44

TABLE IV.—INFANT MORTALITY.

1913.—Nett Deaths from Stated Causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age.

Norham and Islandshires Rural District.

Causes of Death.	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	4 weeks and under 3 months.	3 months and under 6 months.	6 months and under 9 months.	9 months and under 12 months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
All causes—Certified, ...	4	...	...	...	4	2	2	1	3	12
Whooping Cough, ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	3
Other Tuberculous Diseases,	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia (all forms), ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	1	1
Diarrhoea and Enteritis, ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
Premature Birth, ...	4	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	4
Atrophy, Debility, & Marasmus,	...	...	...	...	...	1	..	...	...	1
Totals, ...	4	...	...	..	4	2	2	1	3	12

Nett Births in the year { Legitimate, 119 } 127  
 { Illegitimate, 8 }

Nett Deaths in the year { Legitimate Infants, 9 } 12  
 { Illegitimate Infants, 3 }



# ANNUAL REPORT of INSPECTOR of NUISANCES, 1913.

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During the year ended 31st December, 1913, visits of inspection have been made to the various parts of the District for the purpose of ascertaining their sanitary state.

It has not been found necessary during this period to issue any Statutory Notices, but 91 Informal Notices have been issued. In addition, I have given many verbal intimations to those responsible regarding various insanitary matters, and these have been attended to. The Informal Notices dealt chiefly with choked drains, defective gullies, foul ashpits, and other matters as set out in my Return.

## CONDITION OF DWELLING HOUSES.

These are at present being dealt with under the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909, and Inspection of District Regulations, 1910. Along with the Medical Officer of Health 79 inspections have been made, and the required returns are included in the report of the Medical Officer.

The question of sanitary housing is proving itself a serious problem in most rural districts. Dampness in a more or less degree is present in many of the houses, especially apparent in the older houses. The chief cause of this is the lack of adequate damp course, defective ventilation, lack of proper spouting, and defective walls. Impervious floors are also requisite, and attention is required in cases where the floors are broken and unpaved. Good light and sufficient ventilation are important matters in proper housing, small and fixed windows are evils, both on the score of light and ventilation. The Council are impressing upon Owners and Agents the necessity of improving the housing conditions by attention to the above mentioned common defects.

## WATER SUPPLIES.

I have paid continuous visits of inspection to Norham, Shoreswood, Thornton Park, Felkington, South Berrington, Sandbanks, East Allerdean, etc., regarding above, and these supplies are referred to in the Medical Officer's report.

## SEWERAGE, DRAINAGE, PRIVIES, AND ASHPITS.

The new Runchannels laid at Holy Island and Norham have proved quite satisfactory, these are regularly flushed and kept clean. At Horncliffe Square a new 6in. sewer has been laid and replaces an old built conduit, new drains and settling tanks have been installed according to plans submitted to the Council, at Buckton Farm Cottages, Royalty Farm Cottages, and Thornton Park Cottages, also at the Boathouse, Norham, and a new drain at the Lamb Inn, Ancroft. The Ashpit and Privy system is prevalent in the district. In the larger parishes there are several water-closets. Several Ashpits and Privies have been erected, but further improvements in this direction are desirable.

### DISINFECTION.

Premises at the following places have been disinfected, owing to outbreaks of infectious disease—Scremerston, Richardson Stead, The Sink, Saltpanhow, Grievestead, Felkington, East Ancroft, North Ancroft, South Berrington, Holy Island, Norham, Horncliffe, Horncliffe Mill, and at the following schools :—Horncliffe, Scremerston, and Cornhill.

### NEW BUILDINGS.

Plans for the erection, alteration, and improvements of buildings have been submitted to and passed by the Council as follows (in all cases the work has been carried out or is in progress) :—Addition to Blacksmith's Cottage, Berrington Law; Briar Cottage, Scremerston; New Cottage, Mount Carmel; New Station Master's House, Twizel; addition to St. Coombe's Farm House, Holy Island; Thornton Park drainage; Twizel Red House, and Oxendean Outhouses.

### COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.

I have paid inspections to the several cowsheds and dairies and find these on the whole to be well kept. I gave verbal instructions for lime-washing in four cases.

### MISCELLANEOUS.

There are two slaughter houses in the district, these are both situated in Norham. I have paid several visits of inspection to these places, sometimes during slaughtering operations and was always satisfied with their condition. Several of the insufficiently protected coal shafts in the district have received attention, and I am pressing the owners to have the remainder dealt with.

As required by article XX (16) of the Sanitary Officers Order, 1910, I append the necessary Tabular Statement.

I am, GENTLEMEN,

Your obedient servant,

**J. ROMANS LAKE,**

*Inspector of Nuisances.*

EAST ORD,

*10th March, 1914.*

# SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT.—Year 1913.

Name of District— Norham and Islandshires.  Population—5,830  Name of Inspector— J. Romans Lake.	Housing.						Water Supply		Drainage.			Sanitary Conveniences.			Dairies and Cowsheds.	Slaughter Houses.	Common Lodging Houses.	Offensive Trades.	Bakehouses.	Other Workshops.	Nuisances from keeping of Animals.	Paving of Yards.	Other Nuisances.	TOTALS.	Work Effected.					
	Structural Defects.	Nuisances.	Overcrowding.	Unfit for habitation.	Defective Spouting.	Dampness.	Insufficient.	Unsatisfactory.	Foul.	Untrapped or Dilapidated.	Insufficient.	Structural Defects.	Insufficient.	Foul.	Dairies and Cowsheds.	Slaughter Houses.	Common Lodging Houses.	Offensive Trades.	Bakehouses.	Other Workshops.	Nuisances from keeping of Animals.	Paving of Yards.	Other Nuisances.	TOTALS.	Privy Ashpits Roofed.	Do. abolished.	W.C.'s substituted.	Ash-Closets do.	Houses Disinfected.	Seizure of Unsound Food.
No. of Inspections made,...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	258	...	...	...	...	...	...
No. of Defects or contraven- tions of Bye-Laws found,	17	3	..	...	6	9	2	...	3	3	11	10	10	11	4	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	..	...	91	...	...	...	...	...
No. of Informal Notices by Inspector, .. ...	17	3	..	...	6	9	2	...	3	3	11	10	10	11	4	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	91	...	...	...	...	...
No. of Defects or contraven- tions remedied after Informal Notice, .. ..	12	3	...	...	4	...	2	...	3	3	5	9	6	11	4	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	64	...	...	...	...	...
No. of Statutory Notices served by Local Authority,	Nil.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
No. of Defects or contraven- tions remedied after Statu- tory Notices, ... ..	Nil.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...